

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method for the thermal disinfection of the surface of an article comprising:

contacting said surface with a composition ~~containing~~ comprising a) at least one 1- or 2-(C₃- to C₂₄-alkyl)glycerol ethers[[]] and b) at least one aromatic alcohol in a weight ratio of 0.09 or less for a) to b); and

disinfecting said surface at a temperature equal to or greater than about 30°C.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition is in the form of an aqueous solution.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, ~~wherein said composition is anhydrous~~ further comprising:

diluting an anhydrous form of said composition.

26-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim [[27]] 23, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 35°C.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said temperature is equal to or greater than about 40°C.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 40 to about 80°C.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 60°C.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 55°C.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said temperature is about 50°C.

34. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[26]] 23, wherein said disinfection is carried out under elevated pressure, and said temperature is up to about 170°C.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 80 to about 160°C.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 100 to about 150°C.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 120 to about 140°C.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 130 to about 135°C.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said surface is wetted, sprayed, rubbed, wiped or moistened with the composition.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said surface is dipped into the composition.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said surface is disinfected by atomizing the composition.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said surface comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) metal; b) glass; c) wood; d) plastic; e) textile; and f) ceramic.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said article is at least one device selected from the group consisting of: a) medical instrument; b) laboratory apparatus; c) thermolabile materials; and d) thermostable materials.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein said article is at least one device selected

from the group consisting of: a) bottle; b) air-conditioning system; c) membrane; d) ion exchanger; e) cooling water circulation; and f) endoscope.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said disinfection occurs for a range of from about 10 seconds to about 1 hour.

46. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[42]] 45, wherein said range is from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein said range is from about 5 to about 15 minutes.

48. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, ~~wherein said glycerol ether comprises a range of from about 5 to about 20% by weight of said glycerol ether the total composition~~ further comprising:

diluting with water a concentrate form of said composition, said concentrate form having from about 5 to 20% by weight of said glycerol ether.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said weight is about 10%.

50. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, ~~wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises a range of from about 70 to about 95% by weight of the total composition~~ further comprising:

diluting with water a concentrate form of said composition, said concentrate form having from about 70 to about 95% by weight of said aromatic alcohol.

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 80 to about 90%.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.01 to about 1.0% of glycerol ether by weight; and b) from about 0.1 to about 10% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.025 to about 0.5% of glycerol ether by weight; and b) from about 0.25 to about 5% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

54. (previously presented) The method according to claim 53, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.05 to about 0.2% of glycerol ether by weight; and b) from about 0.5 to about 2% of aromatic alcohol by weight.

55. (previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein said glycerol ether comprises about 0.1 % by weight of the total composition.

56. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises ~~+a)~~ about 89% of water by weight.

57. (previously presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 94.5 to about 99.725%.

58. (previously presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein said weight is in the range of from about 97.8 to about 99.45%.

59. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises ~~+~~~~e~~ salt.

60. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein ~~the pH of~~ said composition ~~[[is]]~~ has a pH in the range of from about 3 to about 10.

61. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said glycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) branched saturated alkyl; and b) unbranched saturated alkyl.

62. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the 1- or 2-alkylglycerol ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) dodecylglycerol ether; b) decylglycerol ether; c) octylglycerol ether; d) propylglycerol ether; e) octadecylglycerol ether; f) hexadecylglycerol ether; g) octadecenylglycerol ether; and h) 1-(2-ethylhexyl)glycerol ether.

63. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a)

aryloxylalkanols; b) oligoalkanols aryl ethers; and c) arylalkanols.

64. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said aryloxyalkanol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) phenoxyethanol; and b) phenoxypropanol.

65. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said arylalkanol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) 3-phenyl-1-propanol; b) phenethyl alcohol; c) veratryl alcohol; d) benzyl alcohol; and e) 2-methyl-1-phenyl-2-propanol.

66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said oligoalkanol aryl ether comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) phenoxy-di-, tri- and -oligoethanol; and b) phenoxy-di-, tri- and -oligopropanol.

67. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.05 to about 0.2% of 1-(2-ethylhexyl)glycerol ether by weight; and b) from about 0.5 to about 2% of phenoxyethanol by weight.

68. (previously presented) The method according to claim 67, wherein said composition further comprises: c) from about 0.5 to about 2% of phenoxypropanol by weight.

69. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises at least one auxiliary.

70. (previously presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one agent selected from the group consisting of: a) aldehydes; b) amines; c) phenols; d) halogen compounds; e) carboxylic acids; f) wetting agents; g) cleaning components; h) corrosion inhibitors; i) nonionic surfactants; j) anionic surfactants; k) amphoteric surfactants; l) buffers; m) acids; n) alkalizing agents; o) perfumes; p) dyes; q) salts; r) indicators; r) markers; s) complexing agents; and t) antifoams.

71. (previously presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) sodium chloride; b) o-phenylphenol; c) triclosan; d) o-phthaldialdehyde; e) Lonzabac 12; f) Lonzabac LF; and g) sodium benzoate.

72. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said composition disinfects at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) bacteria; b) yeasts and moulds; c) mycobacteria; d) viruses; e) propionibacteria (*Propionibacterium acnes*); f) dandruff-causing microbes (*Malassezia furfur*); g) prions; h) odour-causing microorganisms; i) lower harmful organisms; j) protozoa; k) pores; and l) fungi.

73. (currently amended) A process for the thermal disinfection of an article comprising the steps of:

- i) cleaning said article at with a neutral cleaner;
- ii) disinfecting said article by thermochemical disinfection of said article for from about 1 to about 20 minutes with a composition comprising at least one 1- or 2-(C.sub.3- to C.sub.24-alkyl)glycerol ethers and at least one aromatic alcohol;
- iii) rinsing said article with cold water; and
- iv) drying said article.

74. (previously presented) The process according to claim 73, wherein said process further comprises the step of precleaning said article with cold water before step i).

75. (currently amended) The process according to claim 73, wherein ~~the operating temperature of~~ said cleaning occurs at a temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

76. (currently amended) The process according to claim 73, wherein ~~the operating temperature of~~ said cleaning occurs at a temperature of about 93°C.

77. (previously presented) The process according to claim 73, wherein said thermal disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

78. (previously presented) The process according to claim 73, wherein said thermal disinfection occurs at an

operating temperature in the range of from about 90 to about 100°C.

79. (previously presented) The process according to claim 78, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 90 to about 95°C.

80. (previously presented) The process according to claim 73, wherein said drying occurs at an operating temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.

81. (canceled)